



# FEMA

**MINUTES OF THE  
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)  
Ambulance Safety Subcommittee**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	March 3, 2005 1:00 p.m.
<b>LOCATION:</b>	FEMA, National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Building J, Room 138 16825 South Seton Ave Emmitsburg, MD
<b>MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:</b>	<b>Department of Homeland Security</b> <i>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</i> Mr. John Brasko United States Fire Administration  Ms. Cathy Broughton United States Fire Administration
	<b>Department of Agriculture</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Commerce (DOC)</b> Jeannette Young Reese National Technical Information Service (NTIS)  Wayne Strickland National Technical Information Service (NTIS)
	<b>Department of Defense (DOD)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</b> Ms. Nancy Romano AS Subcommittee Chair National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

	<b>Department of Interior</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Justice (DOJ)</b> No Representation
	<b>Department of Labor</b> Ms. Roberta Joyce* OSHA, Colorado  Mr. Steve Yellstrom* OSHA, Colorado
	<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b> Mr. David Bryson National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  Ms. Susan McHenry National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
	<b>Department of Veteran Affairs</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)</b> No Representation
	<b>Federal Communications Commission</b> No Representation
	<b>General Services Administration (GSA)</b> No Representation
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:</b>	<b>American Ambulance Association</b> Mr. Kurt Krumperman*
	<b>American Integrated Training Systems</b> Mr. Billy Rutherford
	<b>American Medical Response</b> Mr. Ron Thackery*
	<b>American Society Testing and Materials</b> Mr. Pete Chambers
	<b>Centronia Ambulance Corps</b> Mr. Larry Wiersch*

	<b>Emergency Responder Safety Institute</b> Mr. James Garcia
	<b>Estero Fire and Rescue Department</b> Dr. Jeff Lindsey*
	<b>Harlem Hospital</b> Dr. Nadine Levick*
	<b>Lifecare Ambulance Service</b> Mr. Larry Anderson
	<b>Loudoun County Virginia Fire Rescue</b> Captain Tim Menzenwerth*
	<b>Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System</b> Ms. Rene Fechter
	<b>Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems</b> Ms. Eileen Frazier*
	<b>Harlem Hospital</b> Ms. Nadine Levick*

***\*Dial-in Participants***

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Nancy Romano called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and proceeded with introductions.

**II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Romano made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 2004, the minutes were approved.

Ms. Romano reviewed the status of the action items generated from the December meeting. Actions (A) and Status (S) is listed below from the previous meetings action items:

**A:** Mr. Bryson wants to have a teleconference (January/February) to continue discussions regarding the Ambulance Safety National Meeting (**AI**).

**S:** Delayed, this item will be carried forward for the June meeting. Mr. Bryson requested that a teleconference occur during either March/April/May. This request was due to needing more time to format the Ambulance Safety National Meeting.

**A:** Ms. Romano, NIOSH will send out an email to the Ambulance Safety Subcommittee soliciting feedback or responses to the three questions related to further feedback on the Ambulance Safety National Meeting **(AI)**.

**S:** Completed, Ms. Romano and Mr. Bryson noted that the response has been mostly sent to Mr. Bryson directly.

**A:** Mr. Terry Mullins, Trauma EMS TAC, requested to be added to the email distribution list, Ms. Romano will add him to the list **(AI)**.

**S:** Completed, Ms. Romano has added Mr. Mullins to the AS Subcommittee email distribution list.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Dave Bryson, NHTSA, provided an update on the progression of the planning for the Ambulance Safety National Meeting. Mr. Bryson noted that the progression had slowed but they expect contract award with 30-60 days and then will be able to move forward. A teleconference is still planned once the contract has been awarded so more of the logistics can be determined and discussed further **(A.I)**. The 1-2 day conference is still targeted for this year and will be held somewhere in the Washington D.C. area.

Mr. Bryson mentioned an article from the Fire Chief Magazine which may have organizational information that can be used as a resource to include some of these organizations as partners for the conference.

Mr. Rutherford, AITS, reported that AITS will be evaluating the wheelchair van area to determine the status of the manufacturing specifications for vans, structural integrity of different types of wheelchairs and the training available for wheelchair van operators.

This is a continuation of a study AITS conducted in 2000 at the request of wheelchair van manufacturers and insurance companies. The U.S. Department of Transportation reported that during 1991-1995, 7,121 wheelchair users were injured or killed by injury producing activity. Of this number 2,494 were injured or killed as a result of improper or no securement and 1,366 because of lift malfunction. Of the 7,121 total, 5,233 wheelchair users injured or killed were over 60 years old.

The 2000 study revealed no federal specification for wheelchair vans, limited training by a wide variety of providers, operators ranged from untrained volunteers to EMTs. Reimbursement rates were not sufficient to cover cost in many cases.

Organizations and individuals may contribute to this study by submitting information to AITS, Inc. ATTN: WCV, 7932 Lake Pleasant Drive, Springfield, VA 22153-2707, or call Billy Rutherford at 703.440.0914 or [brutherf@aitstraing.com](mailto:brutherf@aitstraing.com).

Mr. Rutherford will work with Mr. Krumperman to provide and outline of the pros and cons of simulation to Ms. Romano **(AI)**. In addition, a teleconference will be coordinated by June **(AI)**.

Mr. Larry Anderson, Lifecare Ambulance Service, reported working on the Road Safety Initiative with the Army to take advantage of their available training.

Mr. James Garcia, Emergency Responder Safety Institute, requested information on available training for responders. Specifically, is there a way to include latest lessons learned into the SEVO and EVOC training to include staging? Mr. Rutherford, AITS, responded that this information is in the National Standards Curriculum. In addition, Mr. Rutherford will send Mr. Garcia a copy of this material **(AI)**.

Mr. Larry Wiersch, AAA, reported that individual EMS organizations are looking into the human factor to improve EMS safety-Black box technology. Mr. Wiersch commented this group for their efforts over the past two years as this project is moving forward very nicely.

AAA offers a number of conferences/seminars that have been attended very well. With this good turnout, there has been a reduction in these issues. Dr. Nadine Levick agreed with the summary and reiterated that there is a lot of forward movement.

Ms. Eileen Frazier, Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, shared air safety has had six accidents, four fatal since December. They have always had human factors training but 90% are ruled pilot error/maintenance error reduction. NTSB would like a black-box (audio/video) so they can see and hear what is occurring prior to the accident. It is a strong issue but if brought forward would reduce accidents.

In response Mr. Rutherford noted that habit interference is related to the incidents. Because the design varies from ambulance to ambulance, the driver/pilot responds based on their training. Ex: If in a particular ambulance the break is in one place but the driver is in a different model, it is instinctual to respond to what you are taught.

Dr. Levick, Harlem Hospital agrees that the issues are related and design is significant.

Mr. Ron Thackery, American Medical Response, requested an update on NHTSA's Ambulance Safety National Conference. Mr. Bryson reiterated his brief from earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Romano asked Mr. Thackery about the possibility of bringing the AMR Ambulance Prototype to the June Meeting **(AI)**.

It was mentioned by a member that NIOSH had reported their study in Tampa and requested that Ms. Romano provide that presentation to this body **(AI)**.

Ms. Romano mentioned that the teleconference capabilities were much improved. The additional microphones were an exceptional help for those who participate via teleconference.

With no further reports, Ms. Romano reviewed the proposed June agenda items and the new/ongoing action items.

#### **IV. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Romano asked Mr. Thackery about the possibility of bringing the AMR Ambulance Prototype to the June Meeting **(AI)**.

It was mentioned by a member that NIOSH had reported their study in Tampa and requested that Ms. Romano provide that presentation to this body **(AI)**.

#### **V. NEW and/or ONGOING ACTION ITEMS**

1. Mr. Rutherford will send Mr. Garcia a copy of this material covered in the National Standards Curriculum **(AI)**.
2. Mr. Rutherford will work with Mr. Krumpertman to provide and outline of the pros and cons of simulation to Ms. Romano **(AI)**. In addition, a teleconference will be coordinated by June **(AI)**.
3. A teleconference is still planned for the Ambulance Safety National Conference once the contract has been awarded so more of the logistics can be determined and discussed further **(A.I)**.

#### **VI. NEXT MEETING**

June 2, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

Tentative: HHS, Parklawn Bldg, Rockville, MD

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.